

Mint of the U. S. at Philadelphia

M. & R. Department,

Hon. A. L. Snowden

Superintendent

Sir

Phil<sup>a</sup> 3 Oct 1879

Observing that some of our reduced silver began to exhibit tendencies to hardness, brittleness, &c. I asked the Assayer to test one of the Plates of Spelter yesterday, which had been broken in half, and showed a separate piece of spelter in the middle, as had been previously observed. The Assayer tested both the outer & the inner plate separately, but found no perceptible difference between them. Both were however of very inferior quality, containing what appeared to be several per cent of lead, (& might be bismuth, &c.) I tested some of the impurity, with M<sup>r</sup> Eckfeldt, this morning, & found it largely lead, whatever else it might contain. I regret extremely that this observation should have been made so soon, after it, <sup>(the spelter)</sup> seemed to me to work well, & was reported fair by me.

Respectfully yours La C Booth M & R



761 1/2

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,  
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Oct 3, 1879.

Jas. C. Booth  
Melter and Refiner.

Reports tendency  
to hardness & brittleness  
in some of our reduced  
silvers. Cause lead  
to

No. of Enclosures,

Rec'd Oct. 3rd 1879.

[Abstract:] Reports tendency to hardness & brittleness in some of our reduced silver, cause lead &c. 761 ½

Mint of the U.S. at Philadelphia  
M & R Department  
Phila.  
October 3, 1879

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Jas. C. Booth  
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